

Remarks

On page 5 of the Supplemental Amendment filed on May 4, 2007, the following statement was made:

"In order to further distinguish the claimed HVJ envelope from an HVJ liposome, claim 6 is amended to recite the methods used to prepare the HVJ envelope. Such methods produce a structure different from an HVJ liposome (for example because the HVJ envelope includes a surfactant)."

However, after mixing an inactivated HVJ with a desired nucleic acid in the presence of a surfactant, the mixture is centrifuged to substantially or even completely eliminate the surfactant (see page 18, lines 12-23 of the specification). Therefore, the resulting HVJ-vector does not include (or only includes trace amounts of) surfactant.

As discussed previously, fusing HVJ with liposomes results in an average diameter that is 1.3 times that of an HVJ-viral particle. That is, inclusion of liposomes into the HVJ increases the volume and size of the product obtained. Therefore, an HVJ envelope vector prepared by the process described in the claims is structurally different from the HVJ liposome in the art because the HVJ-envelope vector claimed does not include a liposome (which would increase the volume and size of the product obtained).

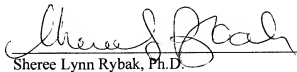
If any minor issues remain before a Notice of Allowance is issued, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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